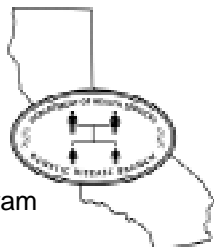


Important Information For Parents About the

Newborn Screening Test



California Department of Health Services



Newborn Screening Program
Genetic Disease Branch
2151 Berkeley Way, Annex 4
Berkeley, CA 94704
(510) 540-2534

ENGLISH 2000

A Test Your New Baby Must Have

Soon after birth, your baby will have a blood test. California State Law requires that your baby have this Newborn Screening Test for:

- PKU (Phenylketonuria)
- Galactosemia
- Primary Congenital Hypothyroidism
- Sickle Cell Disease and other Hemoglobin Diseases

Your baby will also need regular well-baby care to check for other health problems.

Make Sure Your Baby is Tested

Babies can look very healthy at birth and still have one of these disorders. That is why your baby will be tested before leaving the hospital. Ask your doctor or midwife to make sure the test is done.

Babies not born in the hospital must also have this test. It should be done before your baby is six days old. Call your doctor or health department to have your baby tested.

The Test Is Safe

A few drops of blood will be taken from your baby's heel. This is a simple and safe test. The blood will be sent to a State-approved lab for testing.

How Much Does The Test Cost?

The fee is subject to change. Please check with your doctor or hospital for the current cost of the test. Medi-Cal, health plans and most private insurance will pay for the test.

How Can I Get The Results?

You can get the test results from your baby's doctor or clinic. It takes about two weeks. If your baby needs more tests you will get a letter or phone call.

If you move after the test is done, make sure your baby's doctor or the clinic has your new address and phone number.

Can I Say No To The Test?

You can only say no for religious reasons. If you say "no" you must sign a special form that says your hospital, doctor and the clinic staff are not responsible if your baby develops problems from these disorders.

Early Treatment Can Prevent Serious Problems

These disorders can cause serious health problems. But early treatment can help babies with these disorders. Free diagnosis for positive tests is available at a California Children Services-approved hospital in your area.

• PKU (Phenylketonuria)

Babies born with PKU have problems when they eat foods high in protein such as milk, including breast milk and formula, meat, eggs and cheese. Without treatment babies with PKU can become mentally retarded and/or have other health problems. A special diet can help prevent these problems.

• Galactosemia

Babies with this disorder cannot use some of the sugars in milk, formula, and breast milk and other foods. This disorder harms the baby's eyes, liver and brain. A special diet can prevent these problems.

- **Primary Congenital Hypothyroidism**

Babies born with this problem lack a thyroid hormone. Without this hormone they grow very slowly and become mentally retarded. This can be prevented by giving the baby special medicine every day.

- **Sickle Cell Disease and other Hemoglobin Diseases**

These diseases affect the baby's red blood cells. Babies with sickle cell disease can get very sick and even die from common infections. Many of the infections can be prevented with daily antibiotics. Ongoing health care and close monitoring help children with sickle cell disease stay as healthy as possible.